

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method to remove CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting human blood comprising CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells with antibodies specifically binding to:

(i) the CD4 and CTLA-4 entities on the T cells or

(ii) the CD25 and CTLA-4 entities on the T cells; and

(b) removing said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells from the human blood by separating CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells bound to said antibodies from said human blood.

13.-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, whereby said CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells are removed from the human peripheral blood.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing immunoadsorption methods.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein said method further comprises utilizing a stimulating agent or antigen presenting cells.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising a step of testing the $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ T cells.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein said step of testing the $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ T cells for a regulatory property of $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ T cells comprises analyzing the $CD4^{+} CD25^{+}$ T cells for a property selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) constitutive expression of CTLA-4;
- (b) being non-proliferative following stimulation via the T cell receptor;
- (c) being in an anergic state;
- (d) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-15;
- (e) being in an anergic state that is partially reversed by IL-2 and IL-15;
- (f) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with allogeneic mature dendritic cells;
- (g) releasing IL-10 following stimulation with anti-CD28 antibodies and immobilized anti-CD3 antibodies;
- (h) suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD4^{+}$ T cells in a coculture experiment;
- (i) suppressing the activation and proliferation of $CD8^{+}$ T cells in a coculture experiment; and
- (j) having a cytokine profile that differs from that of $CD4^{+} CD25^{-}$ T cells.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4⁺ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises determining whether said property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4⁺ T cells is contact-dependent.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for the property of suppressing the activation and proliferation of CD4⁺ T cells in a coculture experiment, wherein said analyzing comprises the use of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells that have been activated and fixed.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said step of testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a regulatory property of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells comprises the step of analyzing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells for a cytokine profile of predominant secretion of IL-10 and only low levels of secretion of IL-2, IL-4, and IFN- γ .

33. (Currently Amended) A method to remove CD4⁺ CD25⁺ regulatory T cells from human blood comprising the steps of:

- (a) isolating a population of CD4⁺ T cells from the blood;
- (b) isolating a population of CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells from the population of

CD4⁺ T cells isolated in step (a); and

(c) testing the CD4⁺ CD25⁺ T cells isolated in step (b) for constitutive expression of CTLA-4.